



EARLY LEARNING

The District continues to be dedicated to the success of the youngest members of the community. Statistics strongly support the need for early-learning development, as 85 percent of a child's communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills are developed by age five. Additional data shows a strong correlation between early literacy skills and a child's chance for academic success. Young children need positive influences to build this foundation and prepare them for success in school and in life.



“Creating a home environment that promotes healthy brain development can be one of the biggest gifts parents can give their son or daughter. Our P2P programs are designed to help support young families and future students and establish a solid foundation for a lifetime of learning.”

- Dr. Jacy Clugston Hess
District Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education

The District launched the **P2P Academy** in May 2015 for families with children from birth to age six who reside in the Ephrata Area School District. The P2P Academy helps to ensure all children start school with skills for success. The Academy is comprised of three short online learning modules intended to assist families with teaching their children Kindergarten-readiness skills, preparing for their success in school, and positively strengthening the community. The modules include a short video, several questions to answer, and an opportunity to post and share feedback with other parents via an online message board. Families can easily participate from a home computer or mobile device. Since the P2P Academy was launched, approximately 40 families have completed the program, and it continues to grow.

In addition, the District offers play dates held at local parks to help foster a relationship between the District and incoming students. Baby Mounts and Mini Mounts events are held at the Ephrata Public Library and feature a different themed learning activity each month. Mighty Mounts helps incoming Kindergarten students practice Kindergarten-readiness skills and become familiar with their schools. Finally, Plant the Seed of Learning is a collaborative program across seven school districts with learning sessions held at WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital and Lancaster General Health Women and Babies Hospital.